



ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

USDA National Organic Program

What is it?

Organic food sales amounted to more than \$55 billion dollars in 2020 and only continue to grow. More than 15% of all fruits and vegetables sold in America are now organic. SCS is committed to supporting growers and handlers who have done the hard work necessary to make an organic claim through our certification process. Help set your food products apart with the USDA Organic Certification seal certified by SCS Global Services.

Why Choose SCS?

SCS has been advocating for sustainable agriculture and healthy communities since its founding in 1984. SCS was among the first third-party certifiers to be accredited by the National Organic Program, bringing over 20 years of experience to support our clients and advocate for organic. We certify clients from coast to coast and are growing our international certification program. With competitive rates, first-class service, and prompt turnaround times, SCS will help you become a part of the growing organic movement.

Bundle Certifications and Save 10% Off Your Assessment Fees

Combine Non-GMO Project, USDA Organic and/or Gluten-Free certification together and save 10% on each program's assessment fees for your first year certifying with SCS. Take advantage of our dually trained auditors and support staff who can provide simultaneous audits with fast turnaround times.

Whether you are a long-time client or new to SCS, we are extending the 10% discount to anyone who wishes to bundle these services together. Combine with food safety or sustainability certifications to avail a 5% discount. It has never been easier or more affordable to combine services at SCS.

Process

While the specifics of certification vary depending on whether the company seeking certification is a food producer, shipper, distributor, wholesaler or handler, the certification process generally involves the following steps:

1 Apply for Certification

Complete the SCS Application for Organic Certification. This provides our auditors with basic information about your organic handling practices.

2 Determine Eligibility

SCS reviews your application to determine if we can offer certification services to your operation in compliance with the National Organic Program standard. We prepare an Application Review Letter with the findings. If information provided is satisfactory, we proceed with your certification.

3 Authorize a Proposal

SCS prepares a proposal for your approval with suggested scope of work, timeline and quote. If the proposal meets your needs, you sign a Work Order. We then contact you to schedule an audit.

4 On-site Audit and Testing

SCS conducts an annual on-site audit, including collection of samples for testing as may be deemed necessary. The audit includes physical inspection of the site, review of records, interview with personnel, and an exit interview. We prepare a Report of Findings after the audit (and any associated testing) is completed.

5 Certification Decision

If certification is granted, a Certificate of Compliance is issued. If certification is not granted, then the Report of Findings is accompanied by a declaration of status and explanation. The status may be one of the following:

- Additional information or corrective actions required.
- Existing certification should be suspended or revoked, or
- Certification is denied.
- Should additional inspections be required, SCS will prepare a Notification of Additional Inspection that describes the purpose of the additional inspection.

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6 Maintaining Certification

Annual audits are required to maintain certification.

For more information contact:

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